

## **Willow River State Park and Little Falls Lake Drawdown Frequently Asked Questions**

### **1. Will the dam be removed?**

The Department of Natural Resources will be evaluating potential options. These options include removal of the dam, or reconstruction of the dam or sections of the dam. Factors that will influence the future of the dam include, but are not limited to: the inspection report, impacts to the community, environment, public feedback, park and neighboring properties and the economics associated with the chosen alternative, as well as available funding.

### **2. How will the Willow River State Park Little Falls Dam Project be funded?**

The proposed funding for this project will be through the State Capital Development Budget process. Additional funding options are still being explored.

### **3. How long will the drawdown last and the repairs take?**

The duration of the drawdown is dependent on the results of the determined resolution for the dam. The drawdown is expected to last several years.

### **4. Will the dam be refitted for hydro power?**

That opportunity is not being explored. Licensing and development of hydro power would extend the timeline, complexity and budget.

### **5. Is the dam used to control flooding?**

The Little Falls Dam was not designed as a flood control structure since it is maintaining a wet impoundment.

### **6. What impact will the work have on fish and wildlife?**

The proposed drawdown is not expected to cause the incidental take of any state-listed species. The drawdown will provide new habitat for migratory shorebirds and wading birds. It is expected to see a reduction in the number of waterfowl and insectivores using the area during the drawdown due to a loss of surface water. Reptiles and amphibians will be

displaced due to a loss of habitat during the drawdown until re-flooding occurs. Habitat for aquatic furbearers will decline, however, no impact to the local population is expected.

**7. Where can the 2013 dam inspection information be reviewed?**

Hard copies of the dam inspection report are available at the Willow River State Park Headquarters and at the Hudson Town Hall. The documents can also be accessed electronically via the following link <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Dams/>

**8. Will there be additional public meetings?**

Yes. Additional public meetings will be scheduled throughout the project.

**9. How will the drawdown impact water levels on Lake Mallalieu?**

Water levels on Lake Mallalieu are not expected to change as a result of this project. Small, temporary fluctuations may occur depending on precipitation in the watershed and operation of the gates during the draw down. Planned communication and operation of the Mallalieu Dam will be coordinated with the City of Hudson.

**10. How will sediment be managed to minimize impacts to Lake Mallalieu?**

The department will do everything possible to minimize the amount of sediment, to the maximum extent practicable. We are drafting a drawdown strategy that addresses sediment management.

**11. Will local residential wells be affected by the drawdown?**

We do not expect that residential wells will be affected. Groundwater may fluctuate, and we will work with residents to address any issues that appear.